



February 22, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

From: Chair, Safety and Health Working Team

Subject: 2004 SAFETY GRAM

The 2004 SAFETY GRAM is attached. It summarizes reported wildland and prescribed fire fatalities, burnovers/entrapments and vehicle accidents for all wildland fire management organizations throughout the United States in 2004.

Twenty fatalities occurred in 2004, when employees were performing some action associated with the incident. We experienced nine heart attacks; two related to the Work Capacity Test, seven associated with fire-fighting. Driving accidents accounted for eight fatalities. Two pilots died in two separate SEAT aircraft crashes and one helicopter pilot died while performing a long-line operation. One fatality occurred on wildland fire and one fatality on prescribed fire.

Accident prevention is enhanced when our fire fighters and fire managers are made aware of serious accidents that have occurred over the year and can identify where our future safety emphasis areas should be.

Please provide wide distribution of this 2004 SAFETY GRAM to your respective agencies and organizations.

Please feel free to contact Gene Madden, Chair, SHWT at (850) 414-9958 or maddeng@doacs.state.fl.us with any questions.

/s/ Michelle Ryerson, Vice Chair, SHWT

Attachment – 4pp